GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:486
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India in the export of agricultural products in the World Market;

(b) whether the total quantum of agricultural export is still quite low;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of the exported items; and

(d) the measures taken to promote agricultural export?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid down on the table of the house.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 486 REGARD EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

(a) & (b) The share of India in the exports of agricultural products in the world market is still low and is about 1%.

(c) & (d) Exports of agricultural products are dependent on a number of factors such as domestic production and consumption, exportable surpluses, consumer preferences, varieties traded, quality, domestic and international prices, availability of infrastructure to store, process, transport and despatch.

The major agro items exported from India are Rice - both Basmati and non-Basmati, Spices, Cashew, Oilcake/meals, and Tobacco. There is a growing business of export of fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, processed foods and vegetables, meat and meat products, sugar, shellac, niger seed, guargum and ground nut seed and other seeds.

Some of the steps taken / proposed to be taken specifically for enhancement of agricultural exports are:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.

2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.

3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially in the mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets.

4. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables and fruits.

5. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

6. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

7. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

8. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quallity, lack of contamination & ensuring freedom from bacteria & fungi.